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# Gist: A Scientific Graphics Package for Python

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"Gist" is a scientific graphics library written by David H. Munro of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. It features support for three common graphics output devices: X-Windows, (Color) PostScript, and ANSI/ISO Standard Computer Graphics Metafiles (CGM). The library is small (written directly to Xlib), portable, efficient, and full-featured. It produces x-vs-y plots with "good" tick marks and tick labels, 2-D quadrilateral mesh plots with contours, vector fields, or pseudocolor maps on such meshes, with 3-D plots on the way.

The Python Gist module utilizes the new ``Numeric" module due to J. Hugunin and others. It is therefore fast and able to handle large datasets. The Gist module includes an X-windows event dispatcher which can be dynamically added (e.g., via importing a dynamically loaded module) to the Python interpreter after a simple two-line modification to the Python core. This makes fast mouse-controlled zoom, pan, and other graphic operations available to the researcher while maintaining the usual Python command-line interface.

Munro's Gist library is already freely available. The Python Gist module is currently under review and is also expected to qualify for unlimited release.

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